

STAT

Approved For Release 2005/06/09 : CIA-RDP77M00144R001200010009-2

Approved For Release 2005/06/09 : CIA-RDP77M00144R001200010009-2

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio? There was no objection.

The Clerk read the statement.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of October 8, 1974.)

Mr. HAYS (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the statement be dispensed with, and I will attempt to explain what is in the conference report.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio? There was no objection.

Mr. HAYS. Mr. Speaker, the conference report on S. 3473 dealing with authorizations for the Department of State and the U.S. Information Agency is a reconciliation of differences between a Senate bill that had 13 sections and a House amendment that had only eight sections.

The total authorizations in the Senate bill were \$979,924,000 while those in the House amendment were \$987,929,000. We agreed on \$981,439,000 which means that the House came down \$6,490,000 while the Senate went up \$1,515,000. We cut out the language in the Senate bill that would permit a 5-percent transfer between line items in the authorizations for each of the two agencies covered by the bill. If the going gets tough in any one of their programs, they can come back to Congress and explain why there should be an adjustment.

The agreement also contains \$40 million to assist Israel in the settlement of Soviet refugees. This modest sum is intended to take some of the strain off Israel's economy during this difficult period in its history.

Reaching an agreement on amounts proved to be the easiest part of the conference. The Senate bill included a number of substantive provisions unrelated to the matter of authorizations for the State Department and USIA. Some of them were clearly subject to a point of order. While they may have some merit, they were beyond the scope of the committee of conference.

Among those rejected by the conferees were provisions dealing with prior congressional approval of military base agreements, a specific requirement that Congress give its approval to any agreement relating to Diego Garcia, and a provision calling for an exhaustive review of our policy toward Cuba. Another Senate section that was omitted would have reorganized foreign affairs legislation into three major bills instead of the several bills now brought to Congress. One of our main objections to that proposal was that it intruded upon the jurisdiction of other House committees.

Other Senate provisions that we thought went too far were reduced from a legislative mandate to a sense of Congress expression. Among those was the one that would establish an International Materials Bureau in the Department of State. That broad issue is now a matter of intense study and a report is expected in a few months. It will be time enough then to consider how best to handle this matter.

The Senate bill called for a detailed 5-year plan for future U.S. military and

economic assistance to South Vietnam. I found myself in sympathy with that objective. It has always been my contention that we simply had too many people scattered around the world. But the acceptance of the Senate language would have brought us into a head-on collision with committees that have jurisdiction over the activities of other agencies. We therefore reduced the issue to one of an expression of Congress that such reductions be made and reported to Congress.

The conferees accepted the Senate language that repealed the Formosa resolution of 1955. That resolution authorizes the President to employ the Armed Forces of the United States as he deems necessary to protect Formosa and the Pescadores Islands. Without belittling the importance of the Republic of China, it was thought that that resolution no longer serves as a legal or constitutional authority for either contingency planning or the actual conduct of our foreign relations in that area.

We followed up last year's action on the disclosure of political contributions by nominees for ambassadorships by requiring that these contributions must now be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The Senate bill required that all Foreign Service officers between their 8th and 15th year of service must have a 2-year tour of duty with state or local government, public schools, or other public organizations. This meant that about 250 officers would be assigned annually. The conferees were of the opinion that this constituted too large a number who would be detached from their regular duties at any one time. On the other hand, they were mindful of the fact that diplomats-in-residence program had been successful. They agreed, therefore, to require a minimum of 50 officers a year to serve a 1-year tour in such positions as the Senate bill identified.

The Senate bill delineated the authority and the responsibility of ambassadors basing its language upon letters that President Kennedy and President Nixon had sent to their ambassadors during their Presidency. We thought that the Senate language, however, intruded upon the constitutional role of the President. We insisted, and the Senate conferees agreed, that all powers exercised by an ambassador were to be under the direction of the President.

Under existing law a high school or college student whose parents are serving abroad is entitled to one round trip in each of 4 years to the place where his family is posted. The provision of

law is applicable not only to Foreign but also to other civilian employees. This prolonged absence has often produced strains and emotional concerns both by the parents and the student. We did not feel we could intrude upon the jurisdiction of the Post Office and Civil Service Committee. The amendment made in the conference bill permits one round trip each year but is limited to Foreign Service personnel of the State Department, AID, and USIA.

I am pleased that the Senate conferees took the provision in the House bill that authorizes an ex-gratia payment of 1 year's salary to the immediate dependents of those Foreign Service personnel who die abroad in the line of duty. That provision is effective with January 1, 1973. Since that date there have been seven tragic deaths, the most recent being that of our Ambassador to Cyprus.

We also retained in the conference agreement the House provision that prohibits the Department of State from making an annual payment of \$15.6 million to the Foreign Service retirement fund to cover the additional unfunded liability arising from the transfer of AID personnel to that retirement system from the civil service retirement system. That is an item that should be included in the AID legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to my House colleagues who served with me on the committee of conference: Mr. MORGAN, Mr. ZABLOCKI, Mr. FUELINGHUYSEN, and Mr. THOMSON of Wisconsin. I think we held the line—and where had to bend it, we moved it in the right direction.

I urge the adoption of the conference report.

Mr. GROSS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HAYS. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. GROSS. I understand that the bill is less than the figure as it left the House.

Mr. HAYS. \$6,490,000 less.

Mr. GROSS. I would ask the gentleman if all amendments are germane to the subject matter?

Mr. HAYS. Well, all but one, I think, and that is the one repealing the Formosa resolution; but the State Department and the executive said they had no feelings on it and it did not seem to be worth arguing about. By accepting it we got rid of an awful lot of nongermane amendments that the other body put in.

Mr. GROSS. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. THOMSON of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the conference report on S. 3473, to provide authorizations for the Department of State and the U.S. Information Agency.

The subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Ohio, has already provided an informative report on the action of the conferees. But I would like to emphasize the success of the House conferees in sustaining the House position and in rejecting or modifying certain provisions of the Senate bill.

For example, the conferees agreed to drop the Case amendment which prohibited the obligation or expenditure of funds "under any provision of law" to

of 25 percent of the total annual assessment of such organizations.

ASSIGNMENT OF FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS TO PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS

SEC. 9. (a) Part II of title V of the Foreign Service Act of 1946 is amended by adding after section 575 thereof the following new section:

"ASSIGNMENTS TO PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS"

"Sec. 575. (a) Not less than fifty Foreign Service officers shall, between their eighth and fifteenth years of service as such officers, be assigned in the continental United States during each fiscal year for significant duty with State or local governments, public schools, community colleges, or other public organizations designated by the Secretary. Such assignment shall be for twelve consecutive months. Each such Foreign Service officer shall be entitled to state a preference with respect to the type of public organization to which he would like to be assigned but may not state a preference with respect to the geographical location to which he would like to be assigned.

"(b) A Foreign Service officer on assignment under this section shall be deemed to be on detail to a regular work assignment in the Service, and the officer remains an employee of the Department while so assigned. However, any period of time an officer is assigned under this section shall not be included as part of any period that the officer has remained in a class for purposes of determining whether he is to be selected out under section 633 of this Act, or regulations promulgated pursuant thereto. The salary of the officer shall be paid from appropriations made available for the payment of salaries of officers and employees of the Service.

"(c) Any period of time that a Foreign Service officer serves on an assignment under this section shall also be considered as a period of time that the officer was assigned for duty in the continental United States for purposes of section 572 of this Act.

"(d) For the purpose of this section—

"(1) 'State' means—

"(A) a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and a territory or possession of the United States; and

"(B) an instrumentality or authority of a State or States as defined in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph (1) and a Federal-State authority or instrumentality; and

"(2) 'local government' means—

"(A) any political subdivision, instrumentality, or authority of a State or States as defined in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1); and

"(B) any general or special purpose agency of such a political subdivision, instrumentality, or authority."

(b) The amendment made by subsection (a) of this section shall apply only to a Foreign Service officer who completes his eighth year of service as such an officer on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

DEATH GRATUITIES FOR CERTAIN FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL

SEC. 10. The Act entitled "An Act to provide certain basic authority for the Department of State", approved August 1, 1956 is amended by inserting immediately before section 15 the following new section:

"Sec. 14. (a) Subject to the provisions of this section and under such regulations as the Secretary of State may prescribe, the Secretary is authorized to provide for payment of a gratuity to the surviving dependents of any Foreign Service employee who dies as a result of injuries sustained in the performance of duty outside the United States in an amount equal to one year's salary at the time of death. Appropriations for this purpose are authorized to be made to the account for salaries and expenses of the employing agency. Any death

gratuity payment made under this section shall be held to have been a gift and shall not be subject to any gift tax imposed from any source.

"(b) A death gratuity payment shall be made under this section only if the survivor entitled to payment under subsection (c) is entitled to elect monthly compensation under section 8133 of title 5, United States Code, because the death resulted from an injury (excluding a disease proximately caused by the employment) sustained in the performance of duty, without regard to whether such survivor elects to waive compensation under such section 8133.

"(c) A death gratuity payment under this section shall be made as follows:

"(1) First, to the widow or widower.

"(2) Second, to the child, or children in equal shares, if there is no widow or widower.

"(3) Third, to the dependent parent, or dependent parents in equal shares, if there is no widow, widower, or child.

If there is no survivor entitled to payment under this subsection, no payment shall be made.

"(d) As used in this section—

"(1) the term 'Foreign Service employee' means a chief of mission, Foreign Service officer, Foreign Service information officer, Foreign Service Reserve officer of limited or unlimited tenure, or a Foreign Service staff officer or employee;

"(2) each of the terms 'widow' and 'widower', 'child', and 'parent' shall have the same meaning given each such term by section 8101 of title 5, United States Code; and

"(3) the term 'United States' means the several States and the District of Columbia.

"(e) The provisions of this section shall apply with respect to deaths occurring on and after January 1, 1973."

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED

SEC. 11. Subsection (a) of section 15 of the Act entitled "An Act to provide certain basic authority for the Department of State", approved August 1, 1956, is amended to read as follows:

"(a) (1) Notwithstanding any provision of law enacted before the date of enactment of the State Department-USA Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1975, no money appropriated to the Department of State under any law shall be available for obligation or expenditure with respect to any fiscal year commencing on or after July 1, 1972—

"(A) unless the appropriation thereof has been authorized by law enacted on or after February 7, 1972; or

"(B) in excess of an amount prescribed by law enacted on or after such date.

"(2) To the extent that legislation enacted after the making of an appropriation to the Department of State authorizes the obligation or expenditure thereof, the limitation contained in paragraph (1) shall have no effect.

"(3) The provisions of this section—

"(A) shall not be superseded except by a provision of law enacted after February 7, 1972, which specifically repeals, modifies, or supersedes the provisions of this section; and

"(B) shall not apply to, or affect in any manner, permanent appropriations, trust funds, and other similar accounts administered by the Department as authorized by law."

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF AMBASSADORS

SEC. 12. The Act entitled "An Act to provide certain basic authority for the Department of State", approved August 1, 1956, as amended, is further amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

"Sec. 16. Under the direction of the President—

"(1) the United States Ambassador to a foreign country shall have full responsibility for the direction, coordination, and supervision of all United States Government

officers and employees in that country, except for personnel under the command of a military commander;

"(2) the Ambassador shall keep himself fully and currently informed with respect to all activities and operations of the United States Government within that country, and shall insure that all Government officers and employees in that country, except for personnel under the command of a United States area military commander, comply fully with his directives; and

"(3) any department or agency having officers or employees in a country shall keep the United States Ambassador to that country fully and currently informed with respect to all activities and operations of its officers and employees in that country, and shall insure that all of its officers and employees, except for personnel under the command of a United States area military commander, comply fully with all applicable directives of the Ambassador."

TRAVEL EXPENSES OF STUDENT-DEPENDENTS OF STATE DEPARTMENT AND USA EMPLOYEES

SEC. 13. The first sentence of section 5924(4)(B) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking out "one trip each way for each dependent" and inserting in lieu thereof the following: "one annual trip each way for each dependent of an employee of the Department of State or the United States Information Agency, or one trip each way for each dependent of any other employee."

INTERNATIONAL MATERIALS

SEC. 14. It is the sense of the Congress that the Secretary of State should, and he is authorized to, establish within the Department of State a bureau which shall be responsible for continuously reviewing (1) the supply, demand, and price, throughout the world, of basic raw and processed materials (including agricultural commodities), and (2) the effect of United States Government programs and policies (including tax policy) in creating or alleviating, or assisting in creating or alleviating, shortages of such materials. In conducting such review, the bureau should obtain information with respect to—

(A) the supply, demand, and price of each such material in each major importing, exporting, and producing country and region of the world in order to understand long-term and short-term trends in the supply, demand, and price of such materials;

(B) projected imports and exports of such materials on a country-by-country basis;

(C) unusual patterns or changes in connection with the purchase or sale of such materials;

(D) a list of such materials in short supply and an estimate of the amount of shortage;

(E) international geological, geophysical, and political conditions which may affect the supply of such materials; and

(F) other matters that the Secretary considers appropriate in carrying out this section.

FUTURE OF UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH VIETNAM; REDUCTION OF CERTAIN PERSONNEL ABROAD

SEC. 15. (a) It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the Secretary of State should prepare a detailed plan for future United States economic and military assistance to the Government of South Vietnam, including a specific timetable for the phased reduction of such assistance to the point when the United States will cease to be the principal source of funds and material for South Vietnam's self-defense and economic viability;

(2) the total number of personnel of the executive branch of the United States Government (other than personnel of the Department of State, the United States Information Agency, the Central Intelligence

Agency, and the Department of Defense, and volunteers carrying out the Peace Corps Act) who were present in foreign countries on January 1, 1974, and who were citizens or nationals of the United States, should be substantially reduced; and

(3) the total number of personnel of the Department of Defense assigned or detailed to military attaché activities or to military assistance advisory groups or military aid missions, who were present in foreign countries on January 1, 1974, and who were citizens or nationals of the United States, should be substantially reduced.

(b) Not later less than six months after the date of enactment of this Act the Secretary shall report to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate on the steps he has taken to carry out the provisions of this section.

And the House agree to the same.

WAYNE L. HAYS,
THOMAS E. MORGAN,
CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI,
PETER H. B. FRELINGHUYSEN,
VERNON W. THOMSON,
Managers on the Part of the House.
J. W. FULBRIGHT,
JOHN SPARKMAN,
MIKE MANSFIELD,
GEORGE AIKEN,
CLIFFORD P. CASE,
Managers on the Part of the Senate.

JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE

The managers on the part of the House and the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 3473) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and the United States Information Agency, and for other purposes, submit the following joint statement to the House and Senate in explanation to the effect of the action agreed upon by the managers and recommended in the accompanying conference report:

The House amendment struck out all of the Senate bill after the enacting clause and inserted a substitute text, and the Senate disagreed to the House amendment.

The committee of conference recommends that the Senate recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the House, with an amendment which is a substitute for both the Senate bill and the House amendment.

The differences between the Senate bill, the House amendment, and the substitute agreed to in conference are noted below, except for clerical corrections, conforming changes made necessary by reason of agreements reached by the conferees and minor drafting and clarifying changes.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

The following table shows, in thousands of dollars, the provisions of the Senate bill, the House amendment, and the conference substitute, with respect to the authorization of appropriations:

	Senate bill	House amendment	Conference substitute
DEPARTMENT OF STATE			
1. Administration of foreign affairs.....	\$370,050	\$360,785	\$70,045
2. International organizations and conferences.....	229,614	229,604	229,604
3. International commissions.....	17,832	17,832	17,832
4. Educational exchange.....	65,011	75,000	75,000
5. Migration and refugee assistance.....	9,420	9,470	9,420
6. Salary benefits.....	0	11,500	0
7. Soviet refugee assistance.....	50,000	40,000	40,000
Total, Department of State.....	779,924	787,929	781,439

	Senate bill	House amendment	Conference substitute
USIA			
1. Salaries and expenses.....	\$226,839	\$228,368	\$228,368
2. Special international exhibitions.....	6,770	6,770	6,770
3. Radio facilities.....	2,400	4,400	4,400
4. Salary benefits.....	0	4,200	0
Total, USIA.....	238,009	243,738	239,538
Grand total.....	979,924	987,929	981,439

1. Open-ended authorization.

SHORT TITLE

Senate bill

The Senate bill provided that this legislation be cited as the "State Department/USIA Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1975."

House amendment

The House amendment provided that this legislation be cited as the "Department of State and United States Information Agency Appropriations Authorization Act of 1974."

Conference substitute

The conference substitute is the same as the Senate provision.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Senate bill

The Senate bill provided that among the line items for the Department of State and the line items for USIA transfers of funds among the line items for USIA transfers of funds would be authorized so long as no item was increased or decreased by more than 5 percent.

Conference substitute

No provision.

Conference substitute

The conference substitute omits the Senate provision.

REPEAL OF THE FORMOSA RESOLUTION

Senate bill

The Senate bill contained a provision repealing the "Joint resolution authorizing the President to employ Armed Forces of the United States for protecting the security of Formosa, the Pescadores and related possessions and territories in that area", approved January 29, 1955. It is popularly referred to as the Formosa Resolution.

House amendment

No provision.

Conference substitute

The conference substitute is the same as the Senate bill.

PUBLICATION OF POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF CERTAIN NOMINEES

Senate bill

The Senate bill contained a provision to require the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to have printed in the Congressional Record reports on political contributions of nominees for ambassadorial appointments.

House amendment

The House amendment did not contain a comparable provision.

Conference substitute

The conference substitute is the same as the Senate provision.

PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS

Senate bill

No provision.

House amendment

The House amendment prohibits the use of State Department funds for payments to the Foreign Service Retirement and Disability Fund.

sulting from the inclusion of officers and employees of A.I.D. in that retirement system. The conferees intend that such payments be funded from A.I.D. appropriations.

USIA UTILIZATION OF CERTAIN FUNDS

House amendment

The House amendment contained a provision authorizing USIA to use any funds which may accrue to it under certain limited circumstances without further authorization. An example would be reparations paid by a foreign government for damage to USIA property.

Senate bill

No provision.

Conference substitute

The conference substitute is the same as the House amendment.

ASSIGNMENT OF FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS TO PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS

Senate bill

The Senate bill required that every Foreign Service officer be assigned, sometime between his 8th and 15th year of service, to two years of non-State Department service in State or local government, public schools, or other public organizations—at State Department expense.

House amendment

No provision.

Conference substitute

The conference substitute requires such assignment for a minimum of 60 such Foreign Service officers per year and for a period of one year.

DEATH GRATUITIES

House amendment

The House amendment authorized the payment of one-year's salary to dependent survivors of Foreign Service employees killed in line of duty abroad. This gratuity is in addition to any other benefits.

Senate bill

No provision.

Conference substitute

The conference substitute is the same as the House amendment.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED

Senate bill

The Senate bill requires that the annual authorization for State Department appropriations must be enacted before appropriations can be obligated.

House amendment

No provision.

Conference substitute

The conference substitute is the same as the Senate provision.

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF AMBASSADORS

Senate bill

The Senate bill provided that the U.S. Ambassador to a foreign country is fully responsible for the activities of all U.S. Government employees assigned to duty in that country, except personnel under the command of a United States area military commander.

House amendment

No provision.

Conference substitute

The conference substitute is the same as the Senate provision, with a slight modification of wording.

TRAVEL EXPENSES OF STUDENT-DEPENDENTS

Senate bill

The Senate bill contained a provision authorizing government payment for one round-trip per year rather than one trip per four years, as presently authorized, for student dependents of U.S. Government employees.

October 8, 1974

Approved For Release 2005/06/09 : CIA-RDP77M00144R001200010009-2

H 10173

House amendment
No provision.

Conference substitute
The conference substitute limited this authorization for annual trips to student-dependents of personnel of the Department of State, A.I.D., and U.S.I.A.

INTERNATIONAL MATERIALS BUREAU
Senate bill

The Senate bill provided that there would be established in the State Department a new International Materials Bureau, to be responsible for reviewing continuously the situation surrounding international trade in various vital commodities and reporting periodically thereon to the Congress and the President.

House amendment
No provision.

Conference substitute
The conference substitute states it to be the sense of the Congress that such a bureau should be created, and authorizes its creation.
PLAN FOR FUTURE U.S. ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH VIETNAM

Senate bill
The Senate bill requires the submission to Congress of a detailed 5-year plan for future U.S. military and economic assistance to South Vietnam.

House amendment
No provision.

Conference substitute
The conference substitute declares it to be the sense of the Congress that such a plan should be prepared and requires a report to the Congress on such preparation within six months.

REDUCTION OF CERTAIN PERSONNEL ASSIGNED ABROAD
Senate bill

The Senate bill required reductions in certain U.S. personnel assigned abroad: (a) a reduction of 2 percent from the total of civilian-agency personnel assigned abroad (except for State Department, USIA, and CIA personnel and Peace Corps volunteers); and (b) a reduction of 10 percent in the total strength of military aid missions.

House amendment
No provision.

Conference substitute
The conference substitute declares it to be the sense of Congress that all such personnel should be substantially reduced and requires a report on such reductions within six months.

REORGANIZATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS LEGISLATION
Senate bill

The Senate bill contained a provision that, effective with fiscal year 1976 the executive branch consolidate the authorizations for the Department of State, USIA, the Peace Corps, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty, Foreign Service buildings, and foreign economic and military assistance into 3 annual bills, namely, foreign affairs, foreign economic assistance, and foreign military assistance.

House amendment
No provision.

Conference substitute
The conference substitute omits the Senate provision.

MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS
Senate bill

The Senate bill provided that Congress must approve any military base agreement with a foreign country—including any ex-

tension or significant modification of an existing agreement—before funds can be expended to carry out the agreement.

House amendment
No provision.

Conference substitute
The conference substitute omits the Senate provision, which was dropped without prejudice to future consideration by the House and Senate.

DIEGO GARCIA AGREEMENT
Senate bill

The Senate bill provided that Congress must approve any new agreement with the United Kingdom concerning the U.S. base on Diego Garcia before funds can be expended to carry out the agreement.

House amendment
No provision.

Conference substitute
The conference substitute omits the Senate provision.

REVIEW OF POLICY TOWARD CUBA
Senate bill

The Senate bill stated it to be the sense of Congress that the time has come for a review of U.S. policy toward Cuba and the development of a new policy.

House amendment
No provision.

Conference substitute
The conference substitute omits the Senate provision.

WAYNE L. HAYS,
THOMAS E. MORGAN,
CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI,
PETER H. B. FRELINGHUYSEN,
VERNON W. THOMSON,
Managers on the Part of the House.
J. W. FULBRIGHT,
JOHN SPARKMAN,
MIKE MANSFIELD,
GEORGE Aiken,
CLIFFORD P. CASE,
Managers on the Part of the Senate.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEEDS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution just agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

FINANCIAL GIFTS BY NELSON ROCKEFELLER

(Mr. MEZVINSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous matter.)

Mr. MEZVINSKY. Mr. Speaker, in the last few days, reports in the press have advised the American people that Nelson Rockefeller has made substantial financial gifts to several of his present and former aides and other public officials.

In at least three cases, the reports have been accompanied by the Vice Presidential nominee's confirmation that such gifts were made and a disclosure of the details of these gifts.

I commend Mr. Rockefeller's openness in his regard. In light of the events that led to the vacancy which he has been

nominated to fill, I believe it is imperative that he be candid with the American people.

In this regard, I am concerned by the former Governor's gift to Dr. William J. Ronan, chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. While Mr. Rockefeller's press secretary, Hugh Morrow, apparently volunteered the fact that a gift to Dr. Ronan had been made, details of the gift have been withheld. I fear that this inconsistency can only serve to generate suspicion about the gift to Dr. Ronan, especially considering the influence which some of my colleagues from New York advise me he wields as chairman of the Port Authority.

I am confident that Mr. Rockefeller will fully and candidly reply to questions about this gift as well as others during the Judiciary Committee's hearings on his nomination next month. However, I believe it would be in the best interests of the Nation, as well as Mr. Rockefeller himself, if the facts surrounding this gift are promptly disclosed.

The confirmation hearings are now more or less being held in abeyance as we await the staff report on the investigation of the nominee's taxes. The hearings will be further postponed by our recess for the upcoming election.

During this intervening time, I am concerned that suspicion and controversy could develop around the Ronan gift and fuel the distrust and cynicism which has become all too prevalent in recent months. For this reason, I have called on Mr. Rockefeller to voluntarily disclose the details of the Ronan gift as well as others made by him. Such a course of action would be far superior than allowing the facts to be disclosed in a piecemeal fashion through the press. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include for my colleagues' information a copy of a telegram I sent yesterday to Mr. Rockefeller:

TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT BY EDWARD MEZVINSKY TO NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER

DEAR MR. ROCKEFELLER: Considering the era of justifiable public cynicism during which your nomination for Vice President is being considered, I hope that you will take the initiative and publicly disclose the details of financial gifts made by you.

As reports of the Kissinger and Morhouse gifts have appeared in the press, I have been pleased by the accompanying openness with which you have confirmed that such gifts were made and disclosed the circumstances surrounding and details of those gifts.

However, I am concerned by the inconsistency shown by the statement of your press secretary concerning the gift to Dr. William J. Ronan. Reports indicate that Mr. Morrow acknowledged a gift to Dr. Ronan had been made but declined to discuss the details of it.

Considering the influence Dr. Ronan wields as chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, this contrasting lack of candor can only serve to generate suspicion about the gift. With the public starving for openness in government, attention is automatically focused on matters such as the Ronan gift, where full realities are provided but details withheld.

I urge you to voluntarily lay out the facts surrounding this gift as well as others made by you. If the facts are disclosed in a piecemeal fashion, through reports in the press that appear to be only begrudgingly verified